

User Guide

This web page was developed as an agriculture information dissemination tool by the Natural Resources Management Center, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka for all users. These recommendations are to serve as a guide in selecting crops for a particular Grama Niladari Division (The smallest administrative unit in Sri Lanka). Apart from that website provides information on cropping calendar, Agro Ecological Regions, Agrarian Service Divisions and Divisional Secretariat Division's information in a particular district. The recommendation includes crops with proven economic viability under a given pricing and policy framework, sustainability in the particular environment, accessibility by the growers and adaptability to the terrain conditions. Also crop selections have been done with the view to commercialized production. Within a region, if there are special situations or niches they must be considered as special cases.

This information has also released as desktop software "CropRec" it can be download from this web page. The software can be downloaded and easily install in to the personal computers as software and can be used off line. It was prepared along with linking database through a user interface where users have some control to select, what information is needed. Crop recommendations and relevant information were extracted from respective publications and materials made by Plant Breeders, Agronomists, other Agricultural Scientist and Extension officers in the Department of Agriculture. Updated information was digitally compiled in to this data base which consists with range of media elements such as text, special maps and tables etc.

As web base software it can be used for easy and fast dissemination, sharing displaying and data processing which helps information in dissection making for various cropping patterns at the commercial scale farming systems.

The crops for each region are classified into three Groups:

Group 1: Crops important for national food security, crops with high profitability and crops with a high export potential.

Group 2: Crops capable of providing moderate to high returns, crops important for a particular region for some special reason and crops that are in demand locally.

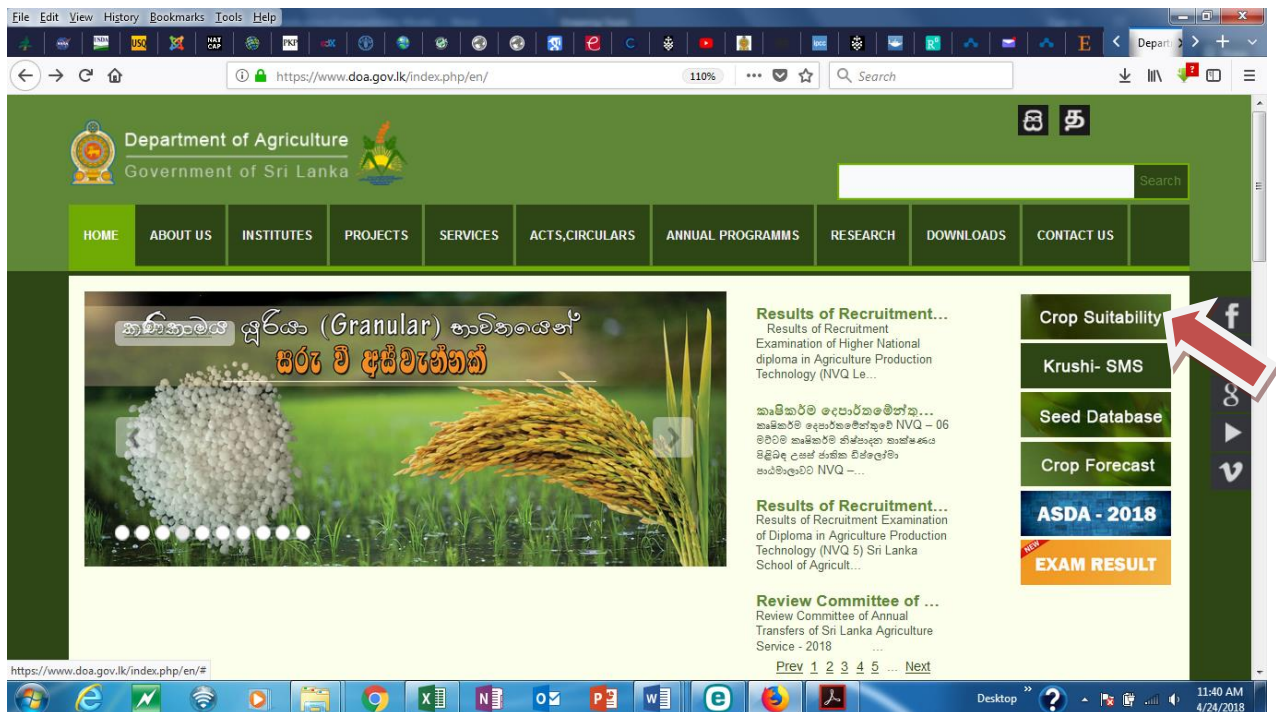
Group 3: Crops important for local food security and crops that provide relatively low profits.

Note:

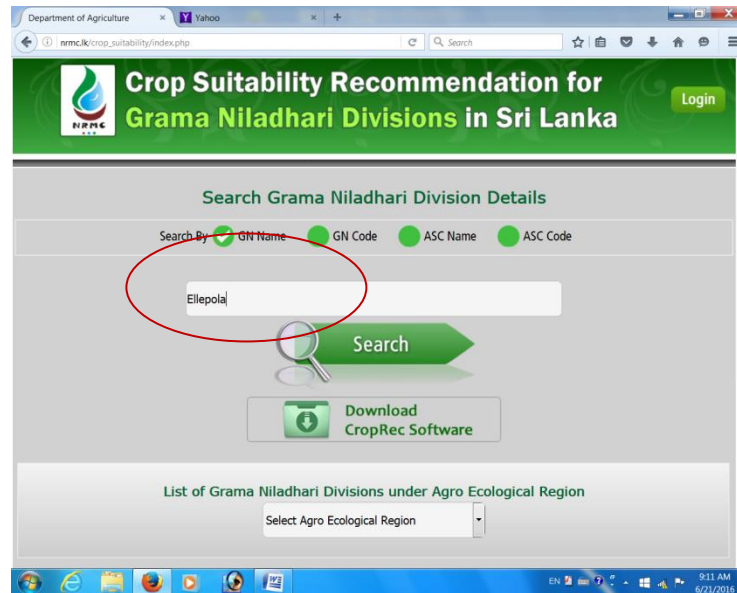
- ✚ Rainfed upland is defined as those lands where the water supply for the well drained upland area is only rainfall. Irrigated upland is designed as upland with well drained soils, irrigated by lifting water from wells rivers channels or streams and not gravity fed.
- ✚ Rainfed low land is defined as the low lying areas in the landscape such as valley floors and bottom lands where dominant land use is paddy for the only water supply is rain fed and ground water at times.

- Irrigated lowland is defined as the valley land, bottom lands, terraced lower slopes of hills and uplands where the dominant land use is under gravity irrigation.
- Except rice, all other crops require adequate surface drainage even on the well to moderately well drained soils, in the Maha season. Cultivation of other field crops in Yala season in irrigated lowlands is recommended with good surface drainage.
- All annual crops are recommended to be grown with very good soil conservation measures if the land slopes, soil conditions and rainfall are conducive to erosion damage. No annual crop is recommended for lands over 60% slopes. Such lands should be kept under natural vegetation or trees.
- Grama Niladhari Divisions (GND) in different sub regions have been listed under different Agrarian Service Center (ASC) areas. The list of Grama Niladhari Divisions should be considered provisional as the data available may differ from actual, due to recent and ongoing changes in GND boundaries.
- This software is supplemented with a cropping calendar for each Agro Ecological Region and a list of Grama Niladhari Divisions related to each Agrarian Services Center area. The cropping calendar is based on rainfall distribution pattern and soil conditions of Agro Ecological Regions. However, the planting dates may be shifted by about one week either way from the suggested dates, depending on the onset of rainfall.

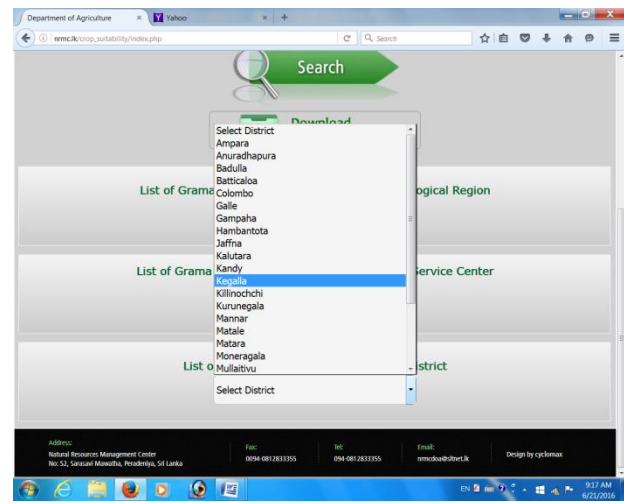
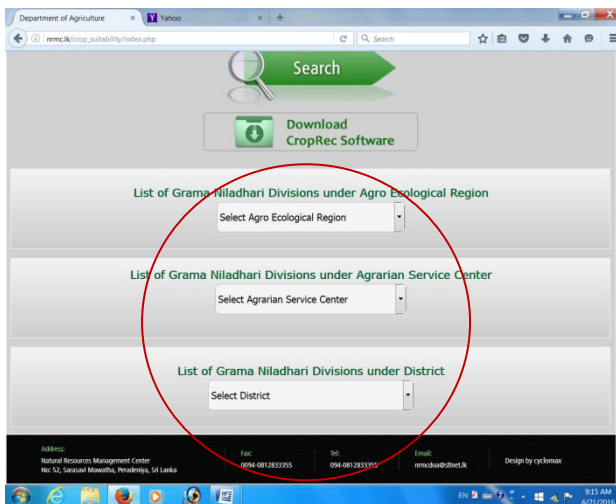
How to use



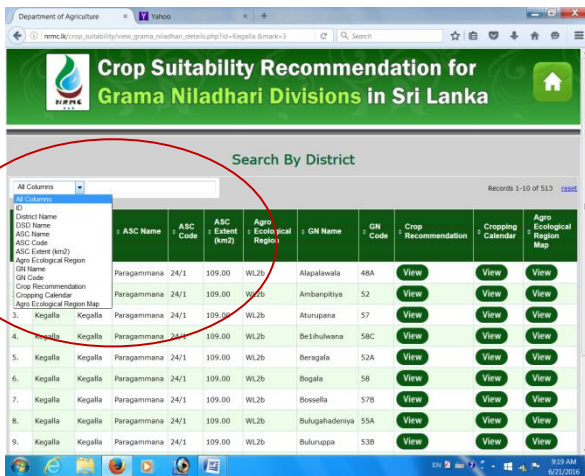
1. Find your name of the Grama Niladhari Division (GN)/ GN Code/ Name of Agrarian Service Center (ASC) and type it in search area. Then press search.



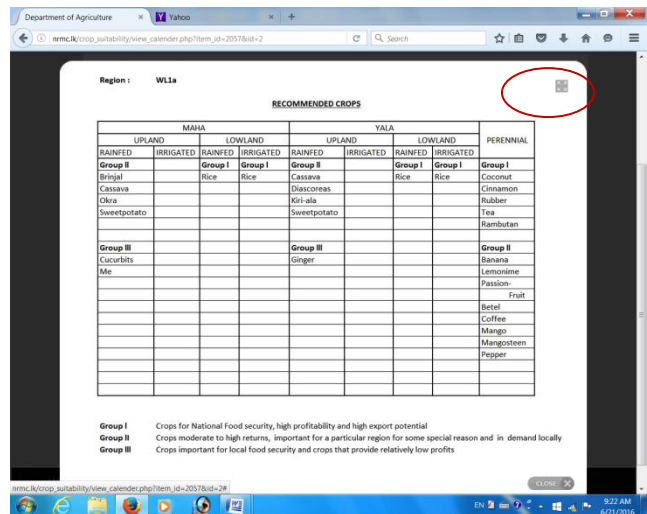
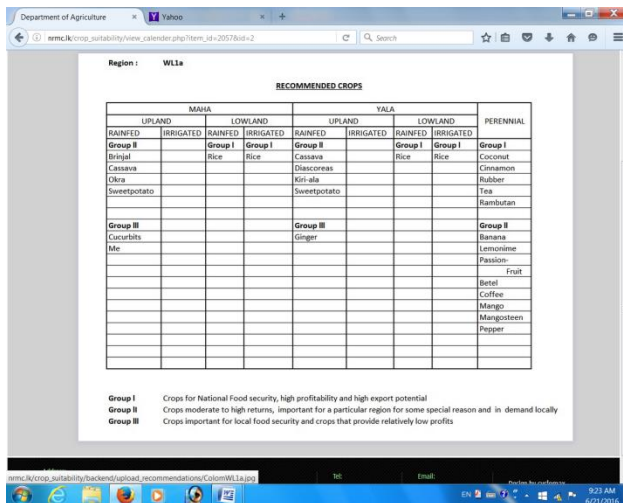
2. Or you can select GN details in Drop down lists by selecting District / Agro Ecological Region/Agrarian Service Center.



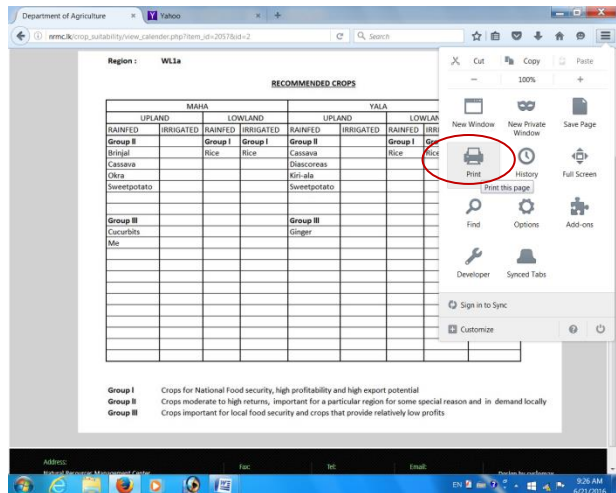
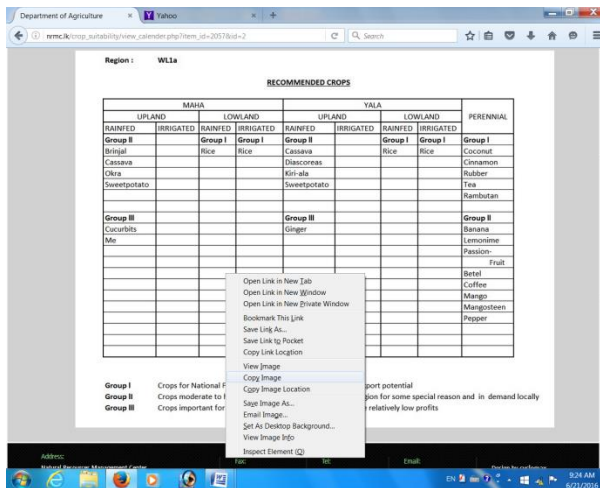
3. In the table you can get the relevant information on District name, District Secretariat Division, ASC name, ASC code, ASC extent, Agro Ecological Region, GN name, GN code, Crop recommendation, cropping calendar, District Agro ecological region map.



4. The information relevant to particular GN can obtain by pressing view button.
5. If you want to enlarge the image double click on the image and then press expanding button on top right corner.



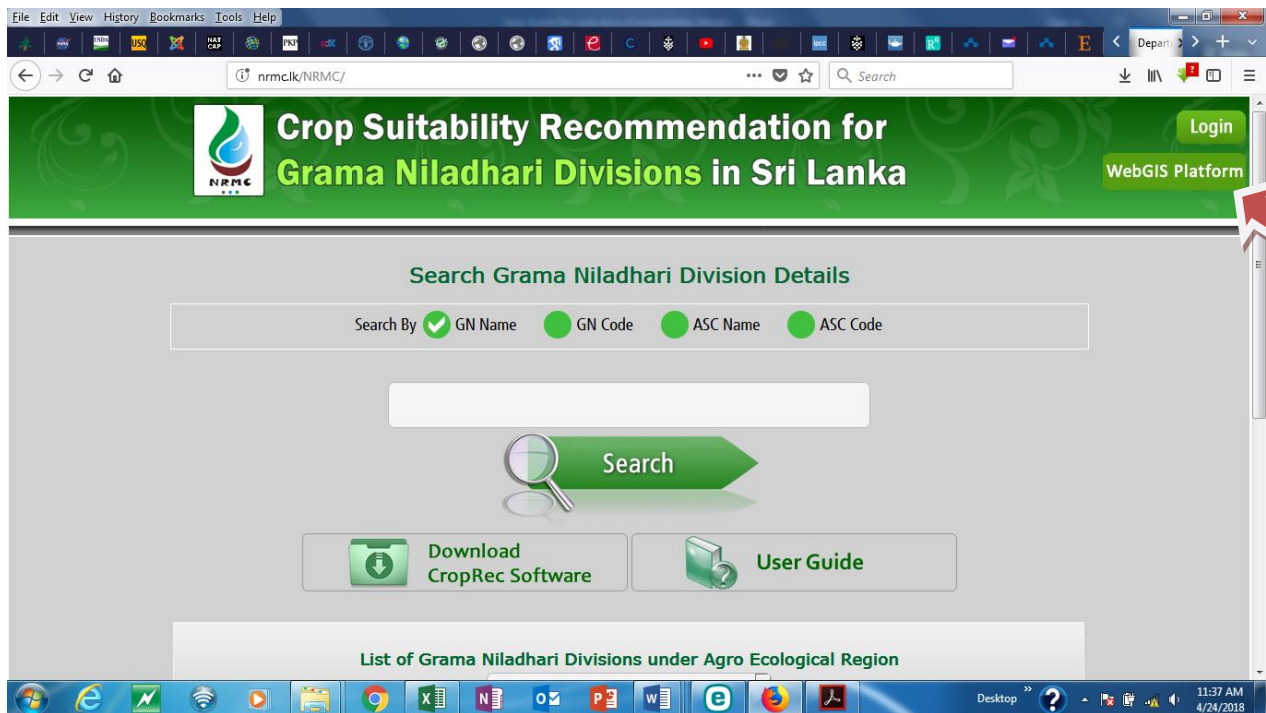
6. If you want to get a copy of the image, right click and go to copy image or save image as.

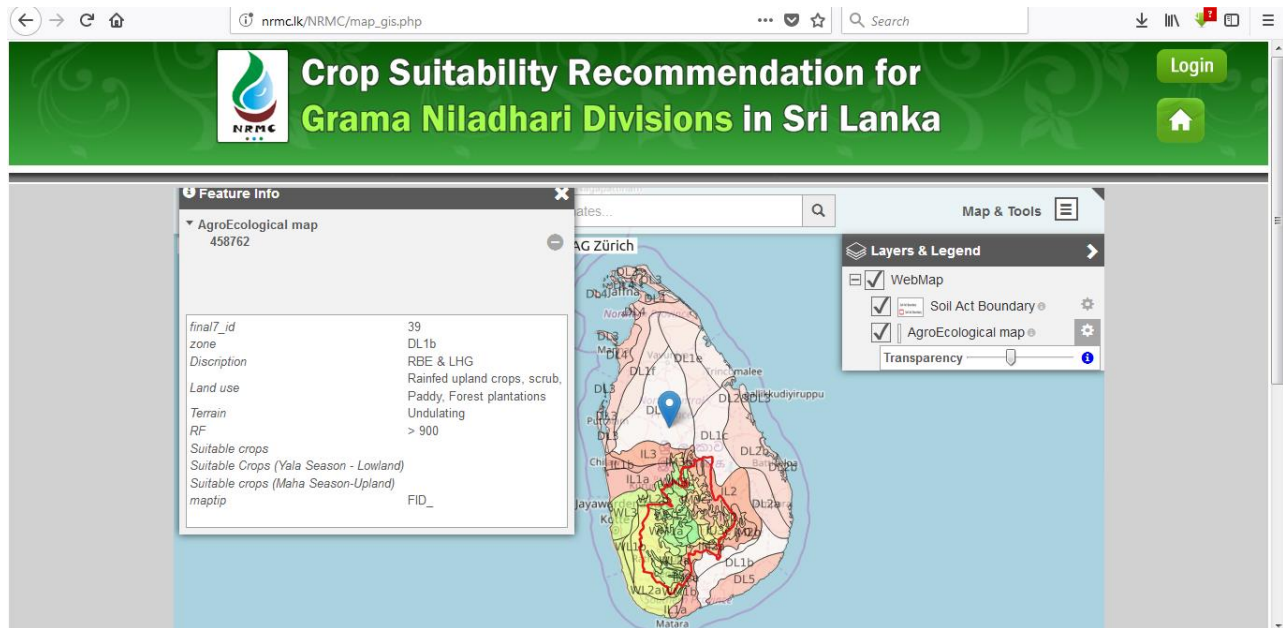


7. If you want to get a print press ctrl + P or Menu bar file print.

8. Web GIS platform

A platform for Natural Resources Management information dissemination





9. To install “CropRec” Software in to your computer, you need:
- Windows operating system
 - Office 2007 or up
 - Free Space of 14 MB

Natural Resources Management Center is warmly welcome your suggestions to improve this software further.

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